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ABSTRACT

A method and apparatus for exercising access control over  
5 television programs using a parental control user interface that  
has different functions is provided. The method requires a  
password to enter into a master mode for obtaining access to all  
the functions of the parental control user interface. Once in  
the master mode, the user may enter a criterion for blocking a  
10 television program from being viewed or recorded or the user can  
override an already blocked television program.

If a user, not in the master mode, attempts to watch or  
record a program that meets the blocking criterion and the  
program does not meet the overriding criterion, a prompt is  
15 provided to the user to enter the password. Upon entering a  
correct password, the program is unblocked.

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